

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 12, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Trustee J. Woodrow
SUBJECT: Motion Re Trustee Electoral Ward Boundary Criteria

RECOMMENDATION

That the following be added to the trustee electoral ward boundary criteria: *ensure that each ward includes within its boundaries at least one elementary, junior high and senior high school.*

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Notice of the above motion was served at the October 14, 2003 board meeting.

Background

The next general municipal election will be held on Monday, October 18, 2004. The City of Edmonton has indicated there will be no changes to the municipal ward boundaries.

The current Edmonton Public Schools trustee electoral ward boundaries were first implemented in 1995 based on board approved criteria as follows:

1. have a resident population of public school supporters that is within +/-10% of the average for all wards (one ninth of the total district-wide public school-supporting population);
2. reflect the potential for population growth or decline with the goal that school ward populations remain within +/- 10% of the average through three municipal general elections;
3. encompass entire school attendance areas where possible;
4. be regular in shape, and will be delineated by easily identifiable boundaries such as major roadways, railways, ravines, rivers, etcetera; and
5. ensure where possible that communities of common interests or characteristics are kept within the same ward.

The administration is planning to review the nine ward boundaries to ensure that the boundaries still meet the current criteria. In the event that the above motion is passed, all of the ward boundaries would be re-examined on the basis of the expanded criteria. A report will be brought to board with the results of the administration's review on January 13, 2004.

JW:mmf